

UPI116

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CORRESPONDENTS:

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING. A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

UPI 10-11 02:39 PED

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18392

RNR153

LEAD KISSINGER (NO PICKUP RNR94)

WASHINGTON, OCT. 11, REUTER - THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY FORCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF A TRIP BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TO BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY STARTING THIS WEEKEND, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

"IT NOW VERY STRONGLY APPEARS THAT THE VISIT WILL BE POSTPONED," DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID. "THIS IS VERY CLEARLY RELATED TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE SECRETARY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH IT ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES."

KISSINGER MET THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, MICHEL JOBERT, FOR AN HOUR TODAY TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPEAN QUESTIONS.

MCCLOSKEY INDICATED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE TRIP CAME UP AT THIS MEETING.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE PACE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET ON A NEW DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN THEIR RELATIONS.

A MEETING OF TOP LEVEL DIPLOMATS ARRANGED FOR COPENHAGEN ON OCT. 18, WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED, MCCLOSKEY SAID. THE UNITED STATES WILL PROBABLY BE REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WALTER STOESSER, WHO HEADS THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

MORE URM/BC1456

18562

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RNR154

LEAD KISSINGER 2 WASHINGTON

KISSINGER DISCUSSED GENERALLY WITH JOBERT THE QUESTION OF OIL SUPPLIES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THEY OUGHT TO REMAIN IN CONTACT ON THE QUESTION, MCCLOSKEY SAID.

BUT HE SAID HE HAD SEEN NO INDICATION THAT ARAB NATIONS MIGHT CUT OFF OIL DELIVERIES TO THE UNITED STATES.

SAUDI ARABIA WAS REPORTED FROM BEIRUT TO HAVE SENT A NOTE TO THE UNITED STATES THREATENING TO HALT OIL SHIPMENTS IF U.S. WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL WERE STEPPED UP.

MCCLOSKEY SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD THAT REPORT AND COULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY IT.

JOBERT WAS ASKED AS HE LEFT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CHARACTERIZE THE STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE U.S.-EUROPEAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. HE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE IMPROVING AND ENCOURAGING.

(NO PICKUP)
URM/BC1458

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